

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Claims 1-20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 39, 43, 47, 48, 50, 54 and 58 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Hanna (US 7,054,905) and Pollack (US 6,505,236).

Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 39, 43, 47, 50, 54 and 58 have been amended so as to further distinguish the present invention, as recited therein, from the references relied upon in the above-mentioned rejection. As a result, it is submitted that the above-mentioned rejection is inapplicable to the claims for the following reasons.

Claim 1 is patentable over the combination of AAPA, Hanna and Pollack, since claim 1 recites an e-mail transmission/reception system including, in part, a mail terminal, wherein the mail terminal comprises a selection receiving unit operable to, based on a received identifier list, display items indicating unique identifiers in a selectable manner, and a preparation unit operable to prepare an attached-file specifying e-mail including a unique identifier corresponding to an item selected by a user as a substitute for at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to a file attached e-mail.

Due to the above-mentioned feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 1, even in the case of cellular phones whose transmission speed is low, attached files can be practically (i.e., in a short period of time and at a low cost) transmitted to receivers' addresses, as described in the specification as originally filed. Further, items indicating unique identifiers, each of which corresponds to an attached file, are displayed in a selectable manner, which allows the user of the mail terminal to select an attached file the user desires to transmit to a sending destination by selecting the item without requiring the mail terminal to receive the attached file itself. The combination of AAPA, Hanna and Pollack fails to disclose or suggest the selection receiving unit and the preparation unit as recited in claim 1.

AAPA discloses an e-mail transmission/reception system including a mail terminal, a mail server, and a mail gateway. In the mail terminal, an e-mail including an attached file that is to be sent to another address is transferred based on a mail ID. However, AAPA does not disclose or suggest selecting a desired attached file to be transferred in a situation where multiple

attached files have been added to an e-mail. Therefore, AAPA fails to disclose or suggest the claimed selection receiving unit and preparation unit.

Regarding Hanna, it discloses a system that replaces an attached file included in an email message with a URL. The object of the system is to store attached files included in email messages in a file server that is separate from a mail server in order to prevent the mail server from being filled up with the attached files. (See column 1, lines 50-67 and Figure 2).

On the other hand, the claimed selection receiving unit and preparation unit allow for the selection of a desired attached file to be transferred in a situation where multiple attached files have been added to an e-mail. Therefore, according to the present invention, the mail terminal transmits and receives not attached files that are large in size but, for example, small size identifiers corresponding to the attached files, and a destination of the e-mail transfer receives the attached file desired by the user. This system realizes the advantageous effect of the user being able to select a desired attached file even on an e-mail terminal with a low capacity line, such as a mobile phone, and forward the attached file to the sending destination. It is apparent that Hanna also fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 1.

Regarding Pollack, it discloses a system that strips an attached file from an email message and adds a handler corresponding to the attached file because the size (e.g., 10 megabytes) of the attached file is significantly larger than the size (e.g., 1 kilobyte) of the email message, and therefore, requires a lot of time for downloading. Further, a URL is suggested in Pollack as a specific example of the handler. (See column 1, lines 35-52; column 5, lines 17-22; and Figure 1).

Based on the above discussion, the system of Pollack allows the user to retrieve the large sized email attachment at a later time in accordance with a user's permission while quickly downloading the small sized email message. (See column 1, lines 56-67). Therefore, Pollack discloses that an attached file can be received at the mail terminal if there is permission of a user. Thus, Pollack, like Hanna, imposes a certain condition on the reception of attached files, and is based on the premise that attached files are received at the mail terminal. However, Pollack fails to disclose or suggest a selection receiving unit operable to, based on a received identifier list, display items indicating unique identifiers in a selectable manner, and a preparation unit operable to prepare an attached-file specifying e-mail including a unique identifier corresponding to an

item selected by a user as a substitute for at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to a file attached e-mail.

In consideration of the above discussion, APAA, Hanna and Pollack do not, either individually or in combination, disclose or suggest a mail terminal, wherein the mail terminal comprises a selection receiving unit operable to, based on a received identifier list, display items indicating unique identifiers in a selectable manner, and a preparation unit operable to prepare an attached-file specifying e-mail including a unique identifier corresponding to an item selected by a user as a substitute for at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to a file attached e-mail, which are recited in claim 1. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify or combine the references so as to obtain the invention as recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

As for claims 5, 9, 13, 17, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 39, 43, 47, 50, 54 and 58, they are patentable over the combination of AAPA, Hanna and Pollack for reasons similar to those set forth above in support of claim 1.

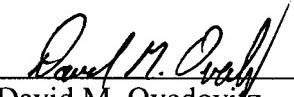
Because of the above-mentioned distinctions, it is believed clear that claims 1-20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 39, 43, 47, 48, 50, 54 and 58 are allowable over the references relied upon in the rejection. Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would not have been motivated to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 1-20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 39, 43, 47, 48, 50, 54 and 58. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1-20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 39, 43, 47, 48, 50, 54 and 58 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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